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PRESS RELEASE

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Vietnam Education Foundation launches new Visiting Scholar Program

Hanoi, January 19, 2007. Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF) is pleased to announce today the launch of its new Visiting Scholar Program for 2007 – 2008.

Since 2003, through its Fellowship Program, VEF has selected and placed nearly 200 Vietnamese nationals for graduate degree programs in science and technology at leading U.S. universities. VEF is authorized also to establish an international fellowship program for post-graduate level studies in the U.S. Dr Lynne McNamara, VEF Acting Executive Director and Director of Programs, said: “With the continued assistance and involvement of the U.S. National Academies, we are extremely pleased to have finalized the VEF Visiting Scholar Program, using our highly successful Fellowship Program as a model. I am very enthusiastic about how this new program offers Vietnamese scientists a professional development opportunity to improve their knowledge base and research capacity. The Visiting Scholar Program is part of the important mission of VEF, namely, to help build the significant relationship between Vietnam and the U.S.”

This program is for Vietnamese nationals who already hold a doctorate in a field of science, technology, engineering, or math, known as the STEM disciplines. The Visiting Scholar Program is intended for support of professional development training, which may include studies, research, and/or observational activities, to take place in a leading U.S. academic institution. The Visiting Scholar will undertake a program of up to one year in length, which may include formal courses, workshops, seminars, laboratory work, research, or other types of activities. After returning to Vietnam, the Visiting Scholar must train others in the skills learned in the U.S. as the VEF Visiting Scholar Program is a training-of-trainers (TOT) program. Furthermore, the Visiting Scholar serves as a key person to help form linkages between U.S. and Vietnamese institutions for long-term cooperation and research.

For 2007-08, which includes the timeframe from fall 2007 through summer 2008, VEF will fund 10 Visiting Scholars for up to one year (12 months). Applicants may apply for a shorter period of time, but the minimum duration is 3 months. VEF funding will include the cost of visa application, a pre-departure health check, pre-departure orientation, a settling – in allowance, a round-trip economy air ticket from

Vietnam to the U.S. academic institution, a stipend, and specified professional development expenses.

Interested applicants may apply online at www.vef.gov from February 1 to April 6, 2007. The deadline for all applications is April 6, 2007. VEF will notify all applicants of their status by early May 2007.

All Visiting Scholars are expected to participate in the VEF Pre-Departure Orientation, to be held June 7 – 12, 2007, in Vietnam. Depending on the dates of their program in the U.S., Visiting Scholars are also expected to participate in the VEF Annual Conference to be held in the U.S. from January 2 – 6, 2008.